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I.

CASES OF RHEUMATISM.

THE following Reports are condensed accounts of the effects of a few remedies in cases of acute and chronic rheumatism. The remedies principally relied on were colchicum autumnale, and sulphur fumigation. It would be easy to add to the number many similar cases, in a majority of which the remedies above named, were advantageously employed.

W. C.

1. Anna Beard, aged 37.—Oct. 30th.—Attacked forenoon, 13th inst. with sudden and severe pain in the left hip, aggravated by motion. Pain passed to the back and right hip, but was quite gone next morning. In succession, the right hand, the right ankle, and left knee have been attacked. Now pain greatest in the calf of the left leg, and right hand. Left knee and ankle much swollen. Pulse 88. Bowels have been kept regular by daily use of

sulphur. 30th and 31st, got Pulv. Guaiaci Resinæ 3*i.* at bed time, with powder of opium and ipecac.

Nov. 1st. Pain in the left leg not urgent through the day, but found herself most easy in bed. Two dejections yesterday. Pulse 100, sitting up.

R. Pulv. semin. colchici, gr. xij.  
Divid. in chartas No. iv.

Take a powder at 11 A. M., one at 9 P. M. and one at 6 A. M. tomorrow.

2d. One dejection in the morning. Pain continues. Some sleep. Pulse 96, small, soft. Countenance better. Appetite not great. Take a powder at 11 A. M., 4 and 9 P. M., and at 6 A. M. tomorrow.

3d. Vomited twice in the evening. Pain much less. Seven dejections. Take a powder at 6 tomorrow morning.

4th. Nausea and vomiting continued through yesterday. Now nausea, but no vomiting. Pain almost gone. Swelling in the right

wrist and hand diminished, but power of motion not returned. 6 dejections. Omit medicine.

5th. Nausea continues ; slight pain in the right hand and left knee. Pulse 96. 8 dejections.

6th, 7th, 8th. Powder resumed at bed time. Has had slight nausea. Pain much lessened, but the knee continues stiff, and the hand useless. On 9th applied following to hand.

R. Camphor, 3*i.*  
Aq. Ammon. 3*ss.*  
Ol. olivæ, 3*i.* M.

13th and 14th. Powder was given in the morning. Slight nausea, but not enough to prevent eating, the appetite for meat having returned.

15th. Without pain at rest ; slight uneasiness on motion, but is altogether convalescent. Medicines discontinued by request.

2. P. Fourmin, aged 24. Dec. 5th. Attack, 24th ult. in the loins, not very severe at rest, greatly aggravated by motion. Habits temperate. Has now great and constant pain in both hips, extending down outside of the legs to the toes. This is increased so much on the slightest motion, that the most perfect rest is carefully observed. Great thirst and slight nausea. Pulse 96, neither full nor hard. Tongue moist and slightly coated. No appetite. No sleep for two nights. Was directed, 10 grs. Dover's powder at bed time.

Dec. 6th. Pain as before. Slept 3 hours. No sweat ; thirst urgent. Tongue as before. One small dejection yesterday.

R. Hyd. Sub muriat. gr. x.  
Pulv. sem. colchici, gr. xij.  
M. Divid. in chart. No. iv.

Take one of these every three hours, and at bed time, Dover's powder as before.

7th. Eight dejections ; nausea and retching in the night ; pulse 76 ; dense white coat on the tongue, rather dry.

R. Antimon. Tartar, gr. iv.  
Ipecac, 3*i.*  
Aq. Bullient, 3*ij.* M.

Take 3*ss.* every half hour till fair vomiting. At bed time the following :

R. Hyd. Sub muriat. gr. vj.  
Pulv. semin. Colchici, gr. iv.  
Opii, gr. ij. M.

8th. After two doses, vomited four times ; afterwards six dejections, not large. Since midnight, cutting pains in the bowels. Rheumatic pains very much diminished. Pulse 84, soft, easy, not full.

R. Pulv. Opii,  
Camph.  
Ipecac. aa gr. iv. M. f.  
Pil. No. viij.

Two now, and repeat once in two hours, till relieved in the bowels.

9th. Took ten pills yesterday before bed time, and two this morning. Several small stools yesterday. Rheumatic pains not urgent. Some swelling and redness on the left hand. Pulse 96, full, soft ; skin moist ; tongue thickly coated.

R. Ol. Ricini, 3*vj.*  
Tinct. Sennæ Comp. 3*ij.* M.

At bed time the following :

R. Hyd. Sub mur.  
Pulv. semin. Colchici aa gr. iv.  
Opii, gr. iii. M.

10th. Pain in the bowels less urgent yesterday. Four small dejections. Slept much yester-

day, but only about two hours in the night. Rheumatic pains diminishing; mouth not sore; pulse 84. Skin natural,—no appetite,—tongue thickly coated,—some nausea. Powder as last night.

11th. Increased pain in the left shoulder and wrist. This came on at midnight with swelling. Some sleep in the day, none during night. Seven dejections, copious; some tenesmus. Pulse 84. Countenance improving,—skin mellow. Pills of opium, camphor, &c. as on the 8th. Powder of the 9th at night.

12th. Took the same number of pills as on the 8th, and powder; slept. Rheumatic pains as before. Pulse 84, soft. No narcotic effects of opium present. Tongue less thickly coated,—appetite very small,—thirst considerable,—nausea, and once vomiting of green matter;—two dejections. Repeat emetic of 7th; afterwards omit medicine, unless diarrhoea or watchfulness demand an opiate.

13th. After two doses, vomited four times light green fluid. Pains much diminished,—a little appetite,—asks to suck beef steak,—let him try some. 9 o'clock P. M. Pains in the limbs increased, especially in the left shoulder, arm, and wrist.

R. Pulv. Ipecac,  
Camphor,  $\frac{aa}{2}$  gr. i.  
Opii gr. iv. M. ft. Pil.  
No. ij.

Take one now, and the other in an hour if pain continues.

14th. Took both pills. Slept well; appetite good; two dejections. Shoulder, &c. much better. If pains recur, repeat pills.

This patient took the powder of guaiacum on the 15th, and the

above pills at bed time when indicated by return of pain. His appetite returned, the rheumatism gradually subsided, however with occasional aggravation, and he discontinued medicines the 4th of January, being at that time, with the exception of slight stiffness in the right ham, in good health.

3. F. Martin, aged 39. Jan. 11th. Attacked at sea with rheumatism four weeks ago. Pains greatest in the loins, back, and left shoulder and arm; most severe about 5 P. M. and when in bed. Tongue pale, thinly coated, tremulous, and indented about the edges. Pulse 72, natural. Skin hot and moist; has not lost flesh; appetite good; bowels loose. The disease has the characters of chronic rheumatism, and yielded very gradually to treatment. He was under treatment for more than three months, and was not perfectly well when he ceased to apply for advice. A brief report only will be given of the means used, and of their effects. To procure rest he first took the compound powder of opium and ipecacuanha, to which was added in a few days the powder of gum guaiacum. Very little relief was obtained. Warm bathing alone, and sometimes followed by the sulphur fumigation, and the sulphur fumigation alone, were next tried, and with temporary benefit. Blisters to the shoulders and the back, and colchicum were next used, and after a few days' trial of these, the sulphur bath was again employed, and with benefit. The report of the 10th of February states, "Always better in the morning; increased pain in the af-

ternoon." Though somewhat relieved, the original characters of the disease remained unchanged, and an alterative dose of calomel and antimony was begun.

R. Antimon. Tartar. gr. i.

Pulv. Opii, gr. ij.

Hyd. Sub mur. gr. x. M. ft.

Pil. No. vi.

One every night.

Feb. 19th. Some diminution of the disease. The mouth is not sore, and a sense of numbness complained of in the right leg. Take half a pill in the morning, in addition to the night dose.

20th. Leg very uncomfortable yesterday P. M. Side and loins free from pain. Pain severe in the left shoulder. Warm bath at night.

21st. Much relieved by the bath; leg relieved,—mouth sore, —no ptyalism.

22d. Pain in the legs prevents walking; on examination nothing was discoverable; pain is greatly aggravated the moment he puts the feet down. Mouth more sore, —no appetite, —nausea, —thirst, —no dejection for two days. Pulse 116, soft. Pain about the shoulder and arms less. Omit pills, &c.

R. Infus. Sennæ Compos. 3 ij.  
Tinct. Sennæ Compos. 3 ss. M.

Take the draught immediately, and repeat in four hours if no operation. Bandagé to the legs.

Stomach well; convalescent; cannot stand up without uneasiness; bowels costive. Since the last report, has been quite ill; stomach greatly disturbed; pulse rapid; much debility. The rheumatic disease, however, has been declining daily.

16th. Has continued to improve. To-day, conjunctiva of the left eye much inflamed, and

has been gradually getting so for some days,—eye somewhat painful, but pain not increased by light.

R. Zinc Sulphat. gr. xij.

Aq. Distillat. 3 iv. M. ft. Solutio.

Wash the eye with this every two hours.

17th to 22d. Reports generally rather better. 23d, sight not clear; inflammation of the conjunctiva rather less. Cornea and aqueous humor clear. Let him be cupped 3 iv.

24th. Pain returned to the shoulders; eye not painful; sight improved. 25th. Eye much better.

27th. Pain in the shoulder. Vision not improved since last report; slight pain across the forehead, over the eyes. Cerat. cantharid. behind each ear.

28th. Eye comfortable through the day, but this morning is irritated by the wash. More stiffness about the shoulder.

30th. Vision of the right eye affected as the left eye. Pain over the right eye. Cup right temples 3 iv.

31st. Left eye less inflamed and vision much improved. Pupil of the left eye more dilated than the right. Inflammation of the right eye increased since cupping, but the eye feels less heavy. Sight of the left eye reported natural. Blister behind the right ear.

April 1st. Left eye greatly improved, and vision continues perfect. Right eye still inflamed, but sees better with it.

2d. Right eye better.

3d. Right eye more inflamed, —severe pain in the ball of the eye. Eye waters freely.

R. Soda Sulphat. 3 i.  
Aq. Commun. 3 v. M.

Immediately, and after operation,

R. Pulv. Cinchon. Rub. 3*i.*,  
and repeat every two hours unless increase of symptoms.

4th, 5th and 6th. Symptoms daily declining. On the 7th the bark produced nausea, and a few drops of an aromatic tincture were added to it. This patient was discharged from further treatment, on the 19th of April, convalescent.

4. H. S. Barlow, aged 13 years. Jan. 27th. A few days since, after exposure to cold and wet, was seized with severe pain in the legs and feet, and in the abdomen and chest. Pressure now adds greatly to the pain in the abdomen, and renders the respiration short, suppressed, and grunting; daily chills, followed by heat; urgent thirst. Tongue loaded with a thick, yellowish white coat, with swollen papillæ near the tip, not very dry. Headache; hot and dry skin; pulse full, hard, 88. Countenance full and ruddy; brow knit; has been vomited, purged and vesicated without relief. Venesection to 3*x.* immediately.

R. Hyd. Submuriat. gr. viiij.

Pulv. Sem. Colchici, gr. v*j.*

Pulv. Opii, Pulv. Ipecac.  $\frac{aa}{ii}$  gr. ij. M. divid. in chart. No. iv.

One of these every four hours.  
Farinaceous diet.

Jan. 28th. Some sleep, but symptoms remain very much as yesterday. Nausea.

R. Antimon. Tart. gr. v*j.*

Aq. Bullient, 3*ij.* M.

$\frac{3}{ss.}$  now, and every half hour till free operation. In the latter part of the afternoon, if not relieved repeat venesection; when

the stomach is quiet, repeat the powders of yesterday; one every six hours. At bed time, if dyspnoea continue, vesicate the chest. Blood drawn yesterday has a thick buff coat.

29th. Took the whole of solution of antimony, and vomited freely: was bled to 3*vj.* Symptoms much mitigated; pulse 72; some nausea. Give the powders once in eight hours. Venesection, if pain, &c. return.

30th. Was bled 3*x.* Pulse 84, less hard. Symptoms again mitigated. Nausea. Omit powders.

R. Zinci Sulphat. 9*i.*  
Aq.  $\frac{3}{ss.}$  M.

Take this immediately, and repeat in half an hour, if no vomiting. At bed time,

R. Pulv. Opii,  
Ipecac.  $\frac{aa}{ii}$  gr. i. M.

31st. Vomited twice after the second dose. Day and night comfortable. Pulse 60, hard; occasionally one pulsation hesitates. Looks and feels better. At 12 A. M. a powder of the 27th. Pill as last night.

This course was continued to the 3d of February. Then, took powder of guaiacum, and solid food moderately as appetite returned. The colchicum was occasionally given, with the guaiacum, as the symptoms demanded, till the 17th, when he was well enough to walk abroad, and on the 25th ceased to use medicines.

5. A. Simmonds, aged 45. June 18th. Has been a sufferer from rheumatism for 20 years. Present attack begun a year ago, May last; first appearing in the smaller joints, and extending from these to the larger ones of both

the upper and lower extremities. Is now tolerably easy in motion, but suffers greatly from any attempt to move. Appetite small, tongue nearly clean, bowels regular, pulse 62. Urine thick, frequent, small in quantity, and high colored. Appearance like nodosity about the joints of two fingers of the right hand. Warm bath. 19th. Sulphur fumigation every night.

20th. Reports very pleasant effects from fumigation. Sweats profusely in a few minutes after being exposed to it. From the long continuance of the disease, and its almost universal occupation of the joints, the following pill was directed to be taken every night, and the fumigation to be continued.

R. Hyd. Subm. gr. vj.

Antimon. Tart. gr. i.

Pulv. Opii, gr. ij. M. ft. Pil. No. vj.

July 2d. Gradual amendment to this date. Now walks with scarcely a perceptible limp.

3d. Continues better.

4th. Mouth not sore; continues better; has not been so well for a year past, as at the present time.

5th. Walked about four hours yesterday; feels altogether better; pain very slight. Omit medicines.

6. G. Crocker, aged 54. Aug. 8th. Subject to rheumatism for 15 years, but never has been laid up by the disease more than three weeks, before the present attack, which occurred a year ago, and was brought on as he says by sprain in the side. A blister removed the pain in the side, but it occurred at once in the hip, after leaving the side. Six weeks after came on pains in right knee

and foot, with much swelling; and soon after in left knee. Has pain also in back and hips. Pain constant, but variable in intensity. Moves limbs with difficulty, and cannot walk without crutches. General appearance healthful; bowels regular. Had a warm bath the first day he came under my care, and next day began to use the sulphur bath. Fumigation was at first from 3j. sulphur, and was gradually increased. It was directed for the latter part of the day, and before beginning it, the bowels were evacuated by a cathartic of calomel and jalap. The compound submuriate pill was directed to be taken at bedtime every night, unless contra-indicated by soreness of the mouth, or other sufficient reason.

Aug. 11th. Expressed himself relieved by bath. 12th day, comfortable. Night less so. 18th. Night more easy.

The report shows a gradual amendment, with occasional increase of pain, to the 22d, when soreness of the mouth is reported, and the pill omitted.

24th. Rheumatic pains as they have been lately, but much less than before beginning present treatment. Mouth better. Fumigation produces full perspiration, and is now accompanied by some itching of the skin.

27th. Symptoms stationary; mouth nearly well; take pill night and morning.

30th. Reports he is mending.

Sept. 1st. Slept better than for six months. Continues to improve.

5th. Walked abroad yesterday some distance with ease. Is now somewhat stiff from over exertion. Is so far recovered as to think further medical treatment unnecessary.

The sulphur fumigation in this case was continued through the whole treatment.

7. T. Smith, aged 28. October 3d. Disease occurred between two and three years since, upon exposure to wet and cold while perspiring freely. The muscles of the back and shoulders were first attacked, then in rapid succession all his limbs, accompanied by stiffness in the joints. He cannot raise the hands to the mouth, and sits very uncomfortably in a chair. The neck is rigid, and drawn a little towards the left shoulder. The head moves only with the body. The lower jaw is much confined in its motions, rendering chewing difficult, and swallowing is much embarrassed. Has pain in the chest upon a full inspiration, and when rising from bed this pain is increased, and a violent pain ensues at the epigastrium. He can only lie on the back. Nights restless, sleepless. Complains now of pain in the epigastrium, loins, and in short in almost every part of the body, and any attempt to move increases his suffering. The ring and little fingers of the left hand much distorted. The first phalanges are drawn back forcibly by the extensors, while the others are strongly bent. The alimentary canal is well, appetite good; urine natural; is emaciated.

There was not much to hope for from remedies in this case; or rather that much benefit would be derived from any, unless persevered in for a long time, and under favorable circumstances. Opportunities for both of these existing, a trial for relief, if not cure, was attempted. The patient had a warm bath the day he

was seen, and began at night to take a pill of the extract of stramonium ij. grains, combined with one of calomel. The stramonium was given to procure rest, and relieve pain; and was preferred to opium or its preparations, as it produces less disturbance in the functions of the stomach and bowels. This course was continued for a few days with some benefit. The stramonium was at length given in doses of three grains, its quantity being regulated by its effects on the head, and particularly by the degree in which the vision was disturbed.

Oct. 9th. By report on the 8th the pain in the limbs is diminished, but has pain in the head, loins and sides; moderate pressure on these last produces much distress. Slept well last night; pupils dilated; vision imperfect; stomach and bowels well.

R. Ext. Dat. Stramon. gr. ijss. ft. Pil. j.

Take this every night. In evening, sulphur bath, beginning with 3j. of sulphur.

On the 11th, friction was directed to be employed every night after the sulphur bath, and to be faithfully applied over the whole body.

Under the use of these means decided changes for the better gradually occurred. He was first able to stand straighter, and to bend his body in sitting with more ease. The arms acquired free motion, so that he could saw wood for three hours without interruption. The head first became more erect, and then its motion from side to side was regained, and gradually the other movements of the head on the neck, and the neck on itself and the trunk. Mastication and deglutition

tion became free; flesh increased, and sufficient recovery to enable this former complete cripple to support himself by the labor of a house servant. He did not cease to use remedies till April 29th, but in December he had strength and freedom of motion quite sufficient to perform a fair proportion of labor. Benefit was derived from the use of blisters to parts in which pain and lameness were most fixed. The stramonium was again and again resorted to when the urgency of pain demanded, and the only inconvenience it produced, was a temporary diminution, or loss of vision.

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## II.

### ANALYSIS OF THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES.

Continued from p. 42.

#### IV.—*Thoughts on the Pathology and Treatment of Icterus, or Jaundice.* By N. CHAPMAN, M. D.

THIS article contains a history of jaundice, with directions for its management.

Dr. Chapman denies that the common cause assigned for this disease, the entrance of the bile into the circulation, is correct. He mentions a case, recorded by Richter, where the disease occurred in an individual who after death was found destitute of a gall bladder; and an experiment of Portal, who tied the cystic duct of an animal without producing jaundice.

Dr. C. supposes that some morbid change is produced in the serum of the capillaries, by the causes of jaundice. The capillaries being in a languid state are disposed to secrete a fluid of some shade of yellow, a change similar to that occasioned by the torpor of impaired vitality of the extreme vessels in a bruised part. The irritation which produces jaundice

is in the mucous tissue of the stomach and duodenum, and not in the liver.

In the more inveterate forms of the disease, the green or black jaundice, medicines are of little utility. Mercury, according to Baillie, will give temporary relief occasionally; but he has only known two cases of recovery, out of a great number which had come under his observation.

#### V.—*Observations on the Medical Topography and Endemic Fe- ver of Montgomery County, Ala- bama.* By CHARLES S. LUCAS, M.D. of Alabama.

The County of Montgomery lies chiefly on the east side of the Alabama River, including within its northern and eastern boundaries, a small portion of country between the Coosa and Talapoosa, which unite to form the Alabama River.

Owing to the softness of the soil through which this river flows, the course frequently becomes altered, leaving numerous stagnant pools, which being exposed to the intense heat of the sun, are soon covered with a green scum, are the nidus of myriads of insects, and soon communicate an offensive taint to the surrounding atmosphere. Into these ponds the negroes are in the habit of throwing decayed timbers removed from the cultivated lands, so that there is soon formed a compound for the production of miasma, which could scarcely be excelled by human ingenuity.

The soil is extremely fertile, and the growth of vegetable productions rapid and luxuriant. The wild lands being cleared by girdling the trees and cutting down the under growth; vast masses of vegetable substance are left to decay, and must contribute largely to the causes of disease, as the process of decomposition is exceedingly rapid. The summers are excessively hot and the winters generally mild.

The sickly season commences in June, and continues till about the middle of October, during which period, strangers and those unaccustomed to the climate, suffer much more than those who have resided in the country for a few years. The negroes who have lived a few years in this State, are sold, on this account, at a higher price than those brought from Virginia and Maryland.

The inhabitants of the river lands consider themselves comparatively safe if the rains are sufficiently frequent and copious to keep the stagnant pools well filled; but the same cause operates most fatally in the oak and hickory lands, where large cultivated tracts, frequently manured with cotton seed, are exposed to the scorching heat of the sun, after being sufficiently moistened to allow of the most rapid decomposition of the vegetable matter.

"The fevers of Montgomery may be considered as forming two varieties, which may be termed inflammatory and congestive.

"The inflammatory form of fever was preceded by the following symptoms; chilliness of the surface, extending down the back; in some cases the coolness was so slight as only to be discoverable at the ends of the nose, fingers, and toes, while other parts of the body were preternaturally hot. Patients complained of great heat and suffocation, when the surface was cold and the heat only perceptible at certain points. The loins, knees, and large joints, generally were very painful: headache, nausea, and disposition to vomit; a small, quick and variable pulse, with hurried respiration, were the symptoms of the first stage."

"In the second stage, the heat of the surface was augmented considerably, the pulse was increased, full and unyielding; the face flushed, the conjunctiva red, excessive headache, tongue parched, and frequently delirium was present. The secretions were altered in character and dimin-

ished in quantity, and the bowels were necessarily torpid. The excited stage fully developed would continue for several hours, and even days, when a slight abatement would take place, about the same hour that the pain occurred on the preceding day. Sometimes no remission took place till the third day; in others the remission was so slight as scarcely to be discovered. The disease advancing, the symptoms become aggravated; the greatest distress, accompanied with much exhaustion, occurred, and this violence terminated about the fifth, seventh, ninth, or eleventh day. Where the crisis is favorable, the pulse becomes soft, the skin and tongue moist, all the secretions more abundant, thirst diminished, respiration freer, and sleep natural. An unfavorable termination is indicated, by the pulse becoming quicker, the respiration frequent, feeble and anxious, the tongue dark, brown, or black, and all the symptoms indicating the immediate proximity of dissolution."

"The congestive form of this fever was not of such frequent occurrence as the inflammatory, but was altogether more formidable and fatal. The duration of the attack varied according to circumstances: the fatal termination speedily followed a violent accession, unless speedily relieved by energetic treatment. The symptoms were very deceptive; cases sometimes terminated in death before danger was apprehended, not occupying more than twenty-four or thirty-six hours in the whole course. The patient was generally affected with all animal and organic actions; a slight, scarcely distinguishable chill, laborious respiration, sense of weight and oppression at the praecordia, great pain in the head, pulse frequent, low, struggling, indolent, and occasionally intermitting, where the brain was affected. The heat of the surface was partial or circumscribed; the tongue, which at first was but slightly changed, as the disease ad-

vances, becomes dark and almost black ; the bowels were torpid, and loaded with dark sceral matters. The sensibility of the skin was almost entirely lost ; epispastics produced no effect. The muscular system was without power, and the mind prostrated. Stupor, delirium, convulsions, hiccough, involuntary discharges, with blotches, and gangrene of the extremities, marked the last periods of the disease."

"The duration of this form of fever was various according to the violence of the attack, and the amount of congestion. In both the varieties of the epidemic, the functions of the liver, kidney, and skin were always in great disorder. Sometimes there was a redundant secretion of bile and urine, and at others, both secretions were suspended. In many instances which fell under my observation, the skin was thoroughly jaundiced, it was almost always dry and husky. Local affections were very generally complicated with the fever in the first stage of the disease. The spleen and lungs were seldom attacked with inflammation, but were, during the first stage, always considerably engorged. But the organs principally affected by the congestion, were the liver and brain, the functions of which were so much interrupted or impaired as to be productive of the most alarming consequences."

"The treatment resorted to during the cold stage, was such as appeared suited to shorten its duration, consisting chiefly of warm diluting drinks, warm bath, occasionally warm toddy, and stimulating applications to the extremities. As soon as the system fairly reacted, the use of the lancet was decidedly called for, and the effect was always beneficial. But when the reaction was imperfect and feeble, the most injurious results would have ensued upon the same treatment. When the heat of the surface was considerable, with headache and full pulse accompanied with much thirst, bleed-

ing always proved of great advantage, and cathartic medicines subsequently operated much more efficiently."

"Purgatives, conjoined with local bleeding, according to circumstances, were of great importance where the reaction was imperfect. When the heat of the surface was unequal, the senses impaired, and the secretions suspended, with a slight disposition to vomit, no medicine was so efficient as tartar emetic and ipecacuan, in full doses, aided by the warm bath. The temperature of the body would become equable, the secretory organs would resume their offices, and a copious discharge of bilious matter by vomiting, would leave the patient comparatively free from uneasiness, perspiring freely and disposed to sleep."

"Emetics used with discrimination, had more influence in producing reaction, than any other remedies that I have used, but in cases where great gastric irritability existed, they would probably have proved fatal. In these latter cases, the nausea was promptly relieved by blisters. As cooperating to the same end, the saline mixture, soda water, lime water and milk, porter, infusion of colombo, mint water and laudanum, and laudanum administered as an enema, were highly useful."

"In all cases where general excitement quickly succeeded the use of an emetic, and the other means above noticed, bloodletting should always be premised, before the administration of purgatives. Of this latter class, the mild ones proved most beneficial. When the liver was involved in the diseased action, I generally used calomel, and followed it up with different saline purgatives, alone, or combined with senna, or the castor oil ; their action should be promoted by enemata ; these remove the torpidity of the bowels, and are sufficiently active to evacuate the contents of the bowels which are dark and tar-like."

"Drastic purgatives were inadmissible; watery, and frequently bloody discharges, and great exhaustion following their exhibition. Whenever the secretion of bile is produced by the action of purgatives, the fever, pain, thirst, oppression, and restlessness soon abates, and the other secretions being restored, the disease speedily yields. It is often useful to unite with the laxatives, the antimonials, in order to relax the cutaneous surface. Diuretics and sudorifics, as spiritus mindereri and laudanum, James's powder, spiritus nitr. dulc., nitrate of potash, serpentaria tea, warm drinks, as toast and water, lemonade, tamarind water, &c. were given to allay thirst, and keep up the discharge from the surface. If there existed any derangement in the cutaneous system, as partial perspiration; sponging the body with tepid vinegar and water, was beneficial by increasing the discharge from the skin. When the excitement is high, skin hot and dry, and great thirst, cold acid drinks, and sponging the body with cold vinegar and water, proved a valuable auxiliary in subduing arterial action."

"*Tonics.*—Wine and bark, sulphate of quinine in porter, columba and gentian tea, quassia and orange peel, are tonics of great efficacy in preventing the recurrence of a paroxysm of fever, and preserving from relapses. When circumstances would admit it, a removal from a low, damp situation, to a more elevated one, conducted very much to a speedy recovery."

"*Diet* during convalescence, light and nutritious; exercise moderate: recovery usually followed in eight or ten days."

VI.—Geo. W. Carpenter, of Philadelphia, gives an account, in the American Journal, of a new article denominated *piperine*, which is obtained from the black pepper.

It has been employed by many

physicians of Philadelphia and elsewhere, and is esteemed by them a superior remedy to the quinine in intermittent fevers, typhus, and periodical headache. The following formula is given for its preparation:—

"Digest one pound of coarsely powdered black pepper in one gallon of alcohol for ten days, distil off one half of the alcohol in a water bath, add by degrees diluted muriatic acid, to hold in solution the piperine, then add water to precipitate the resin and separate the oil, a muriate of piperine remaining in solution; concentrate the solution by evaporation, and add pure potass to decompose it and neutralize the acid, when the piperine, in consequence of the diluted state of the alcohol, and the absence of the muriatic acid, will be deposited in yellowish transparent crystals."

#### VII.—*Mott's Ligature of the Common Iliac Artery.*

In the last number of the American Journal, there is a minute account of a successful operation performed on the *arteria iliaca communis*, for the cure of Aneurism, by Dr. Valentine Mott of New-York. This is the first attempt which has ever been made to apply the ligature to so large a vessel without dividing the peritoneum. The patient recovered perfectly; without experiencing much greater inconvenience from the operation, than would arise from a common flesh wound.

#### VIII.—*Notices of some Anomalous Cases of Dropsy.* By N. CHAPMAN, M.D.

Dr. Chapman believes that in some cases the bloodvessels may, instead of a serous effusion, secrete a gas, which by some unknown process may be converted into a fluid state. In confirmation of the opinion that the bloodvessels can and do exercise this function; beside the authority of Mr. Hunter, he adduces the following instance:—

"A boy having become heated and fatigued by skating, laid down on the ice, and after a time was seized with colic, attended by a distention of the abdomen, amounting to tympanites. By carminatives, opiates, and external warmth, he was speedily relieved of the pain, but on our next visit a few days afterwards, we were astonished to find that he labored under ascites, with œdema of the lower extremities, which proved exceedingly tedious, though he finally recovered."

A lady after eating watermelon and some other fruit, was seized with colic and tympanic distention, and on examination, was found to have confirmed ascites.

It seems that dropsy may be induced by repelled perspiration, or, in other words, by inverted action of the exhalants. It was produced in one instance by taking cold, on coming out of a hot bath; and in another by using the cold bath when extremely hot.

These anomalous cases, Dr. C. thinks may be reconciled to the doctrine of the universal and inseparable connection of dropsy with inflammation, by supposing, that in the first two cases, the irritation was extended to the peritoneum exciting phlogosis,—and in the others, there was a metastasis of the irritative impression made on the dermoid, to the serous tissue, and the effusion resulted accordingly.

IX.—The following interesting case of an anomaly of vision was communicated to Dr. Godman of Philadelphia, by RUBENS PEALE, Esq. the uncle of the young man in question.

"When he was about seven years old, his father, who was a distinguished artist, began to give him lessons in drawing. He was surprised, however, to find that whatever object he attempted to delineate he uniformly inverted. If ordered to make a drawing of a candle and can-

dlestick set before him, he invariably drew it with the base represented in the air, and the flame downwards. If it was a chair or table he was set to copy, the same result was the consequence; the feet were represented in the air and the upper part of the object whatever it might be was turned to the ground. His father perplexed at what he considered the perversity of the boy, threatened and even did punish him for his supposed folly. When questioned on the subject the youth answered that he drew the objects exactly as he saw them, and as his drawings were in other respects quite accurate, there was no reason to doubt his statement. Whenever an object was inverted previous to his drawing it, the drawing was made to represent it in its proper position, showing that the sensations received from the eye were exactly correspondent with the inverted pictures formed on the retina. This condition of his vision was observed to continue more than a year, when his case gradually ceased to attract attention, which was when he was about eight years old. Since that time he has insensibly acquired the habit of seeing things in their natural position."

Another case is mentioned of a distinguished lawyer of Philadelphia, who, for some time, saw every thing inverted; houses standing on their roofs, men on their heads, &c. This defect of vision was occasioned by disorder of the stomach, and went off on that organ being restored to a healthy condition.

There are several other interesting cases of anomaly of vision on record, among which is that of Dr. Wollaston, who after using violent exercise, found he could see but half of a man whom he met. In attempting to read the name Johnson over a door, he saw only —son, the commencement of the word being invisible. The affection was but of short duration.

## III.

## HOSPITAL REPORT.

*Case of Ascites.*

Mrs. A. Ryan, aged 34. Entered the Hospital June 14th, 1827. Ascites followed dysentery, which occurred during pregnancy. Was attacked with dysentery nine months ago. The disease was very severe, and lasted many weeks. Swelling of the abdomen was noticed about seven months since. Has been tapped four times. After the first operation a tumor was observed in the right hypochondrium, tender and prominent. Blisters were applied over it, and mercurials given; the tumor was not perceptible after the second tapping. The greatest quantity of water removed by one operation was eighteen quarts. The last removed sixteen quarts, and was performed eleven days since. Edema of the lower extremities has frequently required scarification. She has been tapped only when dyspnoea has demanded it. Much difficulty has been encountered in the management of this case from the great irritability of the stomach which has marked all its periods. The remedies usually employed in this disease have never failed to excite distressing and continued nausea, or constant vomiting. After the third tapping a new trial was made of these remedies, and of some which had not been employed in this case, but with no better success. The abdomen again filled up, and partly to relieve dyspnoea, and partly to examine the abdomen more accurately than it could be done during distention, she was tapped 4th of July, and 11 quarts of water drawn off. Among the remedies which had not been employed before, were tincture of kino, acetate of potass, extract and infusion of lactuca, and supertartrate of potass and jalap combined and alone. I made trial of these. Various changes occurred under their use. From neither was so much benefit derived as from the tincture of kino in full doses and

repeated as many as four times a day. The bowels remained free under its use. No permanent benefit however was received from any of them, and on the 28th July the abdomen had reached its greatest degree of distention. The record from the notes of that day says:

July 28th. Urine 19 ounces in 24 hours. Two dejections daily. Omit present medicine, and of the following,

R. Ol. Croton Tig. gtt. i.  
Pulv. Aloes, gr. ij.  
Muc. Acacia Gum. q. s. M. ft. Pil.  
No. ij.

take one pill this morning, and if no distress at stomach nor purging, take the other tomorrow morning.

29th. Eight dejections, very copious, watery. Pulse 96. By measure size reported one inch less; abdomen apparently less full. Did not repeat pill. Tomorrow morning a pill, fasting.

30th. Urine as on 28th. Six dejections like those of 28th.

31st. Two similar dejections.

Aug. 1st. Took a pill of 28th, fasting. Eight dejections as before. Nausea, with some vomiting.

2d. One inch less by measure. One dejection this morning. Repeat pill of croton tomorrow morning, fasting.

3d and 4th. Alvine discharges not counted; very frequent, copious, watery; stomach very irritable; exhausted. Got an astringent cordial.

5th and 6th. Three dejections each day. Abdomen less by measure, by an inch a day. Patient feels and looks much better than at any former period. Says she shall soon be as small as any body.

R. Ol. Croton Tig. gtt. i.  
Pulv. Aloes, gr. vj. M. ft. Pil. No. iv.

One at bedtime, and one in the morning if no purging.

It is unnecessary to continue the daily report. The abdomen constantly lessened; sometimes half an inch, and sometimes a full inch in

twenty-four hours. The change in shape was permanent. It began in the upper part of the abdomen. The abdomen seemed to sink as it does from *subsidence of the womb* in pregnancy. There had been anasarca of the abdominal parieties, and much of lower extremities. These gradually disappeared. She rarely if ever repeated the pill in the same twenty four hours, and when the quantity of the croton oil was but a fourth of a drop in the pill, such were its effects on the bowels, that it was necessary to omit two or three days, before taking another. She rarely took more than four of them a week.

September 2d. Urine reported to have gradually increased of late. Let it be measured.

3d. By measure, 36 ounces of urine.

Oct. 5th. Took pill last night,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a drop. Reports to-day ten copious, watery discharges. Vomited twice. Urine 42 ounces. Says she is only one inch larger than after tapping.

This patient continued under my care till the 9th November; then went into the country, in good health. Her complexion good, lips red; appetite, bowels, urine natural. After the dropsy had quite or nearly gone, she took with advantage to her general health the *mistura ferri composita*. It was given with a view to amenorrhœa, which had begun with the disease; for it may be recollect ed the dysentery upon which the dropsy supervened occurred during pregnancy, and the catamenia has not appeared since.

This patient came from the country to see me in December. Her health was good, and the catamenia was re-established. It is worthy remark, that there was no correspondence between the relief of the ascites, and the increase of the renal excretion. This last did not take place until the dropsy had manifestly and greatly diminished. The anasarca of the lower extremities rapidly

went off, and left the limbs very sore and painful. Bandaging afforded great relief. A bandage was also applied towards the close of the disease, over the abdomen.

This case is not reported for the purpose of establishing any new principle in the treatment of dropsy. It has long been known that a steady use of remedies which produce copious and watery discharges, has been curative. Elaterium, and similar articles, had been fairly tried in this case, but the stomach would not bear them, and the general health was greatly impaired by their exhibition. The *oil of croton* was borne by the stomach, and under its use the patient recovered.

W. CHANNING.

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BOSTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1828.

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*Transactions of the Medical Society  
of the State of New-York.* pp.  
63. Albany.

STATUTE meeting in Albany, Feb. 5th, 1827. Communications were read by Dr. Hosack, and from Dr. A. Hull on an improved Truss, and were ordered to be put on file. Various other communications were received and disposed of. The subject of Intemperance has been much attended to by various county societies, and communications respecting it were made at this meeting, and committed. The zeal every where manifested in our country on this important subject, will be gratefully acknowledged by all who feel an interest in the moral and religious progress of the country. Dr. Manly, from the committee on Prize Questions, reported the following,—THE HISTORY, CAUSES, AND TREATMENT OF TYPHOUS FEVER; and moved that

the above be the sole prize question for 1829, and that the premium be **One Hundred Dollars**,—which was agreed to.

Feb. 6. A variety of business was transacted in the forenoon, and at 4, P. M. the President, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, delivered the annual address. Thanks were voted, and a copy asked for the press.

Feb. 7th. The committee on the subject of Intemperance reported the following resolutions with a preamble.

**"Resolved,** That, in the opinion of this Society, the habitual use of ardent spirits is not a source of strength and vigor, but that it is generally productive of weakness and disease.

**"Resolved,** That in the opinion of this Society, ardent spirits are not a preventive of disease under any circumstances, but that more frequently their use predisposes the body to the reception of complaints of an aggravated form.

**"Resolved,** That this Society will discourage the intemperate use of ardent spirits, as far as their example and influence extend.

**"Resolved,** That the free and habitual use of wine and fermented liquors, is often the source of obstinate and incurable diseases, and that although their moderate use may, under some circumstances, be beneficial in giving activity and vigor to the system, yet their use in many cases is often carried too far, and continued to the injury of the constitution."

After some other business the Society adjourned. Following the Transactions is an appendix, containing the *revised statute concerning the Medical Profession*,—*Bye-Laws of the Society*,—*Classification of Counties*,—*Medical Prize Fund*,—

*Standing Committee on Bye-Laws of County Medical Societies*,—*Regulations concerning Prize Dissertations*,—*Schedule of Donations to the Medical Prize Fund*,—*Lists of Members*.

The Annual Address closes the volume. The subject of the Address is **MEDICAL EVIDENCE**. As a writer on Medical Jurisprudence Dr. Beck is too well known, both at home and abroad, to make it necessary to recommend this very interesting paper to the attention of the profession.

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Some gentlemen to whom this publication has been addressed, have returned the number sent without putting their names on it. Turning the envelope and leaving the direction inside, or putting the name in pencil on the paper, would inform the publisher by whom sent back.

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It is ascertained from the Postmaster in this city that the postage of this Journal is the same as for a newspaper.

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Some exchange papers are still directed to the "Medical Intelligencer." The publishers will please alter to the proper direction.

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WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending March 1, at noon.

February 21.	Edward Ivers, jr.	12 mo.
22.	William R. Wait,	10
24.	Ann Cole,	10
	William Henry Shaw,	7 yrs.
	John Wills,	29
25.	Judith Bishop,	6 w.
26.	Catharine C. Green,	3 yrs.
	Capt. John Thompson,	39
	David C. Waterman,	2 mo.
	Horace L. Coburn,	5 yrs.
28.	Child of Mary Bracket,	3 w.

*Diseases.* Consumption, 2—Croup, 2—Dropsy in the head, 1—Hooping cough, 1—Infantile, 1—Lung fever, 1—Salt rheum, 1—Unknown, 1. Males, 7—Females, 4. Total, 11.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

ATHENEUM:  
OR, SPIRIT OF THE ENGLISH MAGAZINES,  
NO. 95, NEW SERIES.

**J**UST published by John Cotton, 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St.

**C**ONTENTS.—The Bachelor's Beat, No. III.—The Death-Day of Korner—"Thou walkest in Brightness"—The Days of Coeur de Lion. Part II.—Francis of Austria—The Meeting of the Brothers—The Man with the Appetite. A Case of Distress—The Ungrateful Stranger. A Norwegian Sketch—Fairy Favours—Love without Doubt. A Tale founded on Fact—Rural Economy:—The Sun Flower; To Increase the Odor of Roses; Scions; How to destroy Caterpillars in an Orchard; Method of Forcing Figs—The Auberge—The Resignation of Bishop Wulstan—Varieties:—Glory; Reward of Honesty, &c.

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CHANDLER ROBBINS, M.D.

SULPHUR BATH.—Dr. R. has, at his house, a private Sulphur Bath on an improved plan, which he will administer in cases of Rheumatism, and affections of the skin which require it.

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## DENARCOTIZED OPIUM &amp; LAUDANUM, EUROPEAN LEECHES, &amp;c.

**L**OWE & REED, 44, Hanover Street, at the head of Elm Street, have lately received a supply of Denarcotized Opium and Laudanum.—Also on hand European Leeches; fresh Vaccine Matter, taken by a physician of this city with particular care: together with a large stock of drugs of every kind.

Lowe & Reed, late Reed & Howard, keep constantly on hand, their *Cure for Intemperance*, which has recently received the approbation of many of the Physicians of this city,—been used by the Society for suppressing Intemperance, and adopted in the House of Correction as preferable to

Published weekly, by JOHN COTTON, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, three dollars and a half if not paid within three months, and four dollars if not paid within the year.

that of Chambers. Price \$2.50. A liberal discount made to charitable Societies.

## SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, &amp;c.

**S**AMUEL N. BREWER & BROTHERS have just received a large invoice of *Surgical Instruments*, which they will sell on the most favorable terms at their Store,—*Sign of the Good Samaritan*, 90 and 92, Washington St., where is also for sale a large assortment of *Drugs, Medicines, Chemical and Electrical Apparatus*, and other articles that are usually kept in Druggists' stores.

\* \* A few pounds of the genuine *Liverwort*, Hepatica triloba, for consumptive complaints, for sale as above. 1aft6t.

## RETAIL DRUG STORE.

**H**ENRY WHITE would inform his friends and the public, that he has now established himself as a retail druggist, at No. 188, Washington Street, opposite the Mariboro' Hotel, where Physicians and Families may depend on the most strict and personal attention to their orders.—No Medicines will be put up unless of the first quality.

N. B. Medicines delivered at any hour of the night.

## CHARLES WHITE,

*Corner of Washington and Winter Sts.*,

**H**AS received, by the late arrivals from France and England, his fall supply of DRUGS, MEDICINES, and SURGEONS' INSTRUMENTS; among them are, delphine, brucine, emetine, strychnine, morphine, veratrine, narcotine, sulphate of quinine, sulphate of rhubarb, drop glasses, stomach tubes, needles for acupuncture, &c. &c.

## VACCINE MATTER.

**T**HE subscribers having received frequent applications for vaccine matter, which they were unable to supply, have now made arrangements to keep a constant supply of it, taken from select and healthy patients. They will receive it fresh, daily; and all had of them may be relied on.

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